(1)	(2)	(3)
122	Mr Abdul Nasir E.	Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
123	Mr Shaikh Rauf Babu	Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Mumbai, Maharashtra
124	Mr Sabir Ahmad Deshmukh	Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Mumbai, Maharashtra
125	Mr R. Kadar Mohaideen Khan	Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Passports under Tatkal Scheme

1750. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received, on an average, per day at Bangalore Passport Office under Tatkal Scheme;

(b) the procedure for obtaining passports under Tatkal Scheme;

(c) if so, the average number of days taken to issue passports under Tatkal Scheme;

(d) whether Government are aware that at Bangalore Passport Office, there is no separate counter for Tatkal Scheme and after applying under general category, it has to be converted under Tatkal Scheme; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure opening of separate counters and expedite the process under Tatkal Scheme at Bangalore Passport Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Passport office Bangalore receives, 50-60 applications daily under Tatkal Scheme.

(b) An applicant in need of urgent travel abroad can apply for issue of Passport under Tatkal Scheme. The applicant has to produce a verification certificate from an authorised person on the prescribed proforma, regarding his/her eligibility for issue of passport. Tatkal fee of Rs. 1500/- is charged in case the Passport is required within 10 days and Rs. 100/- thereafter. The Passport validity, however, is limited to one year only, pending police verification.

(c) In cases of acute urgency and subject to completion of the required documentation, the passport can be issued on the same day and in not so emergent cases, within 3—7 days.

(d) and (e) Passport Office Bangalore is being instructed to open a separate counter for Tatkal applications.

Authentication of Certificates

1751. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian going to certain countries for job opportunities to have to get their certificates authenticated by Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also have such stipulation for people coming from these countries to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several countries require authentication of educational degrees and other official documents like marriage certificates of Indian nationals seeking employment there, by the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Foreign documents are accepted in India only after similar authentication by concerned foreign governments and duly attested by our diplomatic missions resident in those countries.

Indian peacekeeping forces under UN aegis

1752. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has on the request of the United Nations, agreed to increase the strength of its peacekeeping force under UN aegis to 8,000 troops;